THE

Wesleyan Reform Union

HAND BOOK,

CONTAINING

DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES,

CONSTITUTION OF THE UNION,

RULES FOR CHURCHES, MISSIONARY SOCIETY,

CHAPEL FUND,

AND OF THE

WESLEYAN REFORM UNION MINISTERS' PROVIDENT SOCIETY.

LONDON:

WESLEYAN REFORM BOOK ROOM,

8, Exeter Hall.

1879.

Price Twopence.

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OLD BAILEY, E.C.

Wesleyan Reform Union.

DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES.

"Stand fast, therefore, in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage."—Gal. v. 1.

1. That Christ is Head over all things to His Church, and His Word the only and the sufficient rule both of its faith and practice.

2. That no rules or regulations should be adopted, but such as are in accordance with the Holy Scriptures, and have received the full concurrence of the church.

3. That the admission of members into the church, the exercise of discipline upon them, and their exclusion from the church, are rights vested solely in the hands of church members, to be exercised by them either directly or representatively; and that it is the right of members to be present at all meetings for the transaction of the general business of the church.

4. That the nomination and election of all office-bearers is the inalienable right of the church.

5. That, while desirous of maintaining the Connexional principle, we hold that all local courts should be independent, and their decisions affecting internal economy final.

6. That any restriction upon discussion, and the free interchange of opinion on matters affecting the interests of the church, is an unwarranted interference with its liberties, and with the right of private judgment.

7. That preachers of the Gospel are not "lords over God's heritage," for "One is your Master, even Christ, and all ye are brethren."

CONSTITUTION.

In conformity with the above "Declaration of Principles," it is resolved:—

I. That The Wesleyan Reform Circuits and Churches which have forwarded their returns and statistics for the year 1859, to the Reform Book-room, at 8, Exeter Hall, shall now constitute the Wesleyan Reform Union.

II. This Union is formed on the fundamental principle, that every Church has within itself the power and authority to exercise all ecclesiastical discipline, rule, and government, and to put in execution all the laws of Christ necessary to its own edification, including the appointment and removal of its own Ministers.

III. The following are the objects contemplated by the Union:—

1. To extend brotherly love, and increase fraternal intercourse among the Churches composing the Union.
2. To promote unity of exertion in whatever may best serve the cause of Christ.
3. To obtain accurate statistical information relative to the Reform Churches and the institutions connected therewith.
4. To expose the unscriptural assumptions of the Wesleyan Conference, and, as far as possible, effect the reform of Wesleyan Methodism.
5. To conduct the affairs of the Wesleyan Reform Book-room.
6. To publish an annual report of the proceedings, and of the state of the Union.

IV. That there shall be an annual meeting of the Union in the month of July or August, to be composed of Representatives from the Circuits and Churches not forming part of such Circuits, and of the Committee. The representation shall be according to the following scale: —

Under	100	Members	...	...	1	Representative.
„	200	„	...	...	2	„
„	500	„	...	...	3	„
Over	500	„	...	...	6	„

V. That a Committee, consisting of twenty members (including the Treasurer, Secretary, and Book Steward), shall be elected at the Annual Meeting. The Committee shall have power to fill up any vacancy in its own body caused by death or resignation, and shall also have authority to remove the officers and appoint others in their stead.

VI. The Annual Meeting, and, when that is not sitting, the Committee shall have power to receive any Wesleyan Reform Church, or other Church, making written application for admission into the Union.

VII. The expenses of the Executive shall be defrayed out of the profits of the Book-room, and by other means to be decided upon by the Delegate Meeting, and the surplus profits remaining after payment of such expenses shall be disposed of as the Annual Meeting of the Union may determine.

VIII. On account of the importance of correct statistical information, every Circuit and Church connected with the Union is expected to forward its annual return.

IX. That those Circuits and Churches which do not forward their statistical returns in time for the Annual Meeting, be entered as they stood at the previous year, with an asterisk and a foot note of explanation.

X. That all Circuits, Churches, and Ministers * having been placed on the

* At the Delegate Meeting, 1864, it was resolved that the names of all Ministers who have laboured in our Circuits, and are not now labouring with us, nor connected by Membership with our Churches, shall be omitted from the yearly list of Members, unless the Delegate Meeting should decide in favour of any exceptions by naming the individuals so excepted.

statistical returns of the Union, shall remain thereon until they officially withdraw, or become united to some other denomination.

XI. That a Register shall be kept at the Book-room, containing the names and addresses of all Ministers desiring Circuits, and of Circuits requiring Ministers, a copy of which shall be forwarded to Ministers and Circuits on application.

XII. The Committee shall be at liberty to issue a schedule to each Preacher making application to be placed on the Register; such schedule to be in the following form:—

Name .....
Residence .....
Age .....
Married or Single .....
How many years a Local Preacher .....
How many years a Minister .....
How many years in present Circuit .....

XIII. That any person not already on the list of Ministers of the Union, who is desirous to be placed thereon as a candidate for the Ministry, shall be so placed upon the recommendation of the Circuit or Church in which he labours.*

XIV. That the Committee shall have power to place Ministers on the Register of the Union who are recommended by the Wesleyan Independent Reform Circuits or Churches, such Ministers having declared their agreement with the Principles of the Union, and passed the Examination of Candidates for the Ministry.

XV. This Union shall not, either by itself or by its Committee, station or appoint any Minister to a Circuit or Church; but all such appointments shall be by the respective Circuits and Churches themselves.

XVI. For mutual convenience, it is deemed desirable that all changes of Ministers within the Union should, as far as possible, be effected in the month of August.†

XVII. That there be a Committee appointed annually by the Union, to examine such Ministers and Candidates for the Ministry as may desire to be examined as to their theological views.

XVIII. That such Committee be composed of an equal number of Ministers and other brethren.

XIX. That no Resolution affecting the constitution of this Union shall be entertained, unless notice thereof shall have been given at the previous Annual Meeting.

RULES.

For the Government of the Churches and Circuits of the Wesleyan Reform Union, *prepared in accordance with the Constitution thereof, and recommended by the Delegate Meeting of* 1867.

The distinctive principles on which our churches are founded, as distinguishing them from other sections of Methodism, are contained in the foregoing Declaration of Principles, first put forth by the Wesleyan Reformers of 1849 to 1852.

In accordance with these principles and with the teachings of the New Testament it is therefore declared—

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* By Resolution XI. of the year 1860, it is "Resolved, that Resolution XIII. of the Constitution shall be interpreted as applying only to Circuits and Churches in connexion with this Union."

† Delegate Meeting, 1872. It was recommended that the appointments of Ministers be from year to year; that for mutual convenience it is advisable that six months' notice shall terminate such engagements, such notice to be given at the Lady Day quarter.

1. That a Christian church is a company of believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world, who meet together for the worship of God, the preaching of the gospel, and for mutual counsel.

2. Any person who is convinced of sin and danger, and who desires to flee for refuge to the Saviour, is eligible as a candidate for membership with the church, but he shall not be a member until he becomes a believer in Christ: and we earnestly recommend all our members to meet in class.

3. Members from other churches bringing their credentials shall be received without probation.

4. A register of the names of members shall be kept by the church.

5. A meeting of all the adult members of the church shall be held quarterly, or oftener if necessary, for the transaction of its affairs, such as

a. The admission of new members.

b. The election of preachers, leaders, stewards, teachers, secretaries, and other officers.

c. Determining what means of grace shall be held in connection with the church, the times and order of the same.

. Receiving the reports of its officers concerning all its affairs and the institutions connected with it.

e. Hearing and settling disputes among its members according to the instructions of the Lord Jesus. Matt. xviii. 15-17.

f. Settling all other matters affecting the welfare of the church and the extension of the Redeemer's kingdom.

N.B. That notice of all church meetings shall be published at each of the public services on the previous Sabbath.

6. Preachers.—These shall first be received on trial by the church or preachers' meeting for twelve months. They shall then be examined by the church, or by a committee thereby appointed, as to their knowledge of Scripture and the doctrines of salvation; then by vote of the church meeting they may be appointed as preachers of the gospel for life, or until removed by the vote of the church.

7. Leaders.—These may be either male or female, and appointed by vote of the church meeting on the nomination of their several classes. Each leader should meet the class weekly for mutual counsel, prayer, and the reading of God's Holy Word. The leader should have a class book, in which the names of the members and candidates for membership should be entered, and shall collect from them what they are willing to give for any object which the church meeting approves.

8. Stewards.—These shall be elected annually. A steward may be appointed to take charge of each separate fund, or in small churches one steward may be appointed as the treasurer of all the moneys of the church. The leaders shall pay their moneys to the stewards as directed by the church meeting, monthly or quarterly. The stewards shall pay the money voted to the poor members by the church or leaders' meeting, and shall disburse all other sums under the like direction. The chapel stewards shall also be appointed by the church meeting, in cases where the chapel deed does not otherwise direct.

9. Sunday School Teachers may be nominated by the school, but their appointment should rest with the church meeting; and, as far as possible, those should be chosen who are members of the church.

10. Secretaries should be elected annually to perform such duties as the church may appoint, and shall keep careful records of all the proceedings of the church and the institutions connected therewith. The minutes of each previous meeting to be read and confirmed by the next meeting, unless otherwise provided for by the trust deed of the chapel.

11. That in every church a leaders' meeting be held at least once a month.

a. That it be composed of all leaders, preachers, stewards, and trustees, who are members belonging to the church, with such other persons as the church may appoint.

b. That the distribution of all moneys for the poor be in the hands of the leaders' meeting.

c. That all moneys from the classes be paid in at the leaders' meeting.

d. That the leaders' meeting manage all church business between church meetings, subject to the church's approval.

CIRCUIT REGULATIONS.

12. Whereas it is often convenient for several churches to be associated together as a circuit, for the more effectual proclamation of the gospel of Christ, and other matters, it may be expedient for the churches of a circuit to agree to the following regulations :—

a. A quarterly meeting of all the members of the several churches shall be held at an appointed time and place.

b. At this meeting a plan of preaching appointments should be made for the ensuing quarter, in accordance with such directions as shall have been received from all the churches in the circuit, or the meeting may depute this work to a committee appointed for the purpose.

c. The election of all preachers, under Rule 6, where churches are so associated, should be in the hands of the quarterly meeting ; but separate churches should first nominate those brethren who wish to devote themselves to this work. If a circuit preacher shall have been engaged by the quarterly meeting, the stewards shall pay in the contributions of the churches towards his support.

d. If a new chapel is wanted in any place, the quarterly meeting should devise means for assisting in the work.

e. If any church in the circuit shall have submitted any matter for the consideration of the meeting, it should be considered and determined upon.

f. At the March quarterly meeting the arrangements respecting circuit preachers should be considered. At the June meeting the statistics required by the Wesleyan Reform Union should be carefully prepared, and the appointment of representatives to the annual meeting of the Union should be made. At the September meeting the representatives should make their report of the annual meeting. At the December meeting the officers of the circuit should be appointed.

13. The quarterly meeting may appoint a circuit committee, to act on its behalf in the interval of its sittings.

14. That in all circuits a preachers' meeting should be held quarterly, composed of the preachers and circuit stewards.

a. That at this meeting the names of places and preachers be read over, and any change occurring or any matter of business arising therefrom be considered.

b. The circuit may depute this meeting to examine all probationers before they come upon the plan in full.

c. That no preacher be allowed to vote at this meeting until he be received in full.

d. That the preachers' meeting may recommend what names of places or of preachers shall be taken on or put off the plan.

e. That the minutes of the preachers' meeting shall be read at the circuit quarterly meeting, and be subject to their approval.

15. All meetings to begin and end with prayer.

Home and Colonial Missionary Society.

Established 1st of August, 1860.

REGULATIONS.

1. The action of the Executive Committee elected by the Annual Meeting of the Wesleyan Reform Union, with respect to the Home and Colonial Mission, shall be in conformity with the Declaration of Principles, and the Constitution of the Union, so far as these apply directly or by analogy to missionary operations.

FUNDS.

2. The necessary funds for the Home and Colonial Mission may be raised in the ordinary way, by collections after sermons and missionary meetings, and by private subscriptions and donations.

3. The contributions to the Mission Fund shall be kept distinct from all other moneys; and in case contributions should be made for either the Home or the Colonial Department, such sums shall be applied to the special object for which they may be contributed.

4. The Treasurer's Account Books of the Mission Fund shall be open for the inspection of any Subscriber at all reasonable times.

5. A clear and full account of income and expenditure shall be published annually, and sent to every Church and private Subscriber contributing not less than five shillings a year.

HOME MISSIONS.

6. The Committee may engage Home Missionaries to be either wholly or in part devoted to the work. Such Missionaries to be sent to labour in such Districts, Circuits, or Churches as may apply for them, for a time and on terms to be agreed upon by the Committee. In case there be no application for their services, the Committee may appoint them a sphere of labour in which there are no Churches belonging to the Union.

7. That no Missionary be engaged until he shall have been examined by, and shall have obtained a certificate from the Examination Committee.

8. The Committee may grant sums of money from the Mission Fund to aid Circuits or Churches that are labouring under pecuniary difficulties.

COLONIAL MISSIONS.

9. The Committee may accredit as a Colonial Missionary any brother about to emigrate who has laboured in our Churches as a preacher of the Gospel, he being duly recommended by his Circuit; or any one who has already emigrated, on his furnishing satisfactory testimonials as to his moral character and abilities.

10. The Committee may give to each such brother a Certificate of their approval of him as a missionary to the place he has chosen for his dwelling. Should he from any cause, except death, cease to labour as a missionary in connection with the Union, this Certificate shall be at once returned to the Committee.

11. The Committee may assist any Colonial Missionary in prosecuting his work by grants of money, or of books, and may require such an account of

the dispensing of the grants as they may deem necessary. Except in extraordinary cases, no such missionary shall be wholly sustained from the Mission Fund. The assent of two-thirds of the Committee shall be had before such an engagement be made with the missionary; and whenever two-thirds of the Committee require it the engagement shall terminate.*

12. Every Missionary labouring at home or abroad shall keep a journal of his missionary labours, and shall periodically transmit the same or such extracts therefrom as the Committee may desire; and the Committee at their discretion may publish the same.

13. If possible, a missionary meeting shall be held in connection with the Annual Meeting of the Wesleyan Reform Union.

CHAPEL FUND.

Established August, 1865.

CONSTITUTION OF THE FUND.

1. That this Fund be called "The Wesleyan Reform Union Chapel Fund." That its object be to relieve Chapels by loans to the Trustees, at interest of 2½ per cent. per annum. The action of the Executive to be in all things in conformity with the Declaration of Principles and the Constitution of the Union, so far as these are applicable, either directly or by analogy.

2. That the said Fund be raised by annual collections in such Wesleyan Reform Chapels as may agree thereto, and by private subscriptions.

3. That a Treasurer, Secretary, and Committee shall, from time to time, be elected at the Annual Meeting of the Wesleyan Reform Union, and that such Committee, with the Trustees hereafter mentioned, shall manage the affairs of the Fund, five of whom shall form a quorum.

4. That the Committee shall lay a Report of its proceedings before the Annual Meeting of the Wesleyan Reform Union, together with the Treasurer's account of all sums received, expended, and invested, and the same shall be duly audited; which Report shall be published with that of the Annual Delegate Meeting.

5. That five persons shall be appointed Trustees by the Annual Meeting, to whom all notes for the repayment of all money shall be made payable, and who shall hold in trust all property belonging to this Fund. The Trustees to have the right to attend all meetings of the Committee, and to take part in the proceedings and vote on all questions. Any person appointed a Trustee, dying, ceasing to be a member of the Wesleyan Reform Union, declining or neglecting to act, removing beyond the seas, or becoming bankrupt, shall cease to be a Trustee of this Fund, and the Annual Meeting of the Wesleyan Reform Union shall be the judge of all or any of the facts, and the determination of a majority at such meeting shall be final; and every vacancy in the Trust shall be filled up at the succeeding meeting of the Wesleyan Reform Union.

6. That on receiving application for pecuniary assistance, the Secretary transmit to the parties a series of inquiries, and that the amount of assistance in each case be regulated by the character of the answers to such inquiries, and by

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* One great object of this mission is to call out and encourage the evangelical zeal of pious emigrants, and to continue their connection with the Union.

It is not deemed generally necessary to take brethren from their occupations, in order that they may found missions, but rather to organise a mode of action similar to that by which Christianity was first promulgated by the Apostle Paul and his coadjutors.—Acts xviii. 1-11; xx. 31-35. 1 Cor. iv. 12. 1 Thess. ii. 9. 2 Thess. iii. 8-12.

the state of the Fund. That the inquiries so submitted relate to the following particulars :—

A. The number and character of the population in the neighbourhood of the Chapel.
B. The eligibility of the site, and the nature of the tenure of the land.
C. The accommodation, style, general arrangements, and cost of the Chapel, or proposed alteration or improvement, and the debt on the same.
D. The provisions of the Trust Deed.
E. The amount of money raised and promised.
F. The statistics of the other accommodation for public worship in the same neighbourhood, and the distance from the place requiring aid.
G. The time within which the loan, if granted, will be returned.

7. That in all cases where loans are made from the Fund, ample evidence shall be given that the property is properly secured according to the Declaration of Principles and the Constitution of the Union ; and that it has been or shall be vested in Trustees enrolled under a Deed that shall be satisfactory to the Committee in these particulars.

8. That in all Chapels aided by the Committee, a public annual collection be requested to be made to the Fund.

9. That in aiding the Trustees of Chapels, the Committee shall have special regard to those Chapels which are adapted to bring the preaching of the Gospel within the reach of the working population.

10. That in all cases where the Church worshipping in any Chapel shall retire from the Wesleyan Reform Union, the money lent from this Fund shall be returnable immediately.

11. If from any cause the Annual Meeting shall determine that it is desirable the operations of the Chapel Fund should cease, the Trustees shall call in all moneys and properties belonging thereto, and hand the same over to the next Annual Meeting, to be by that meeting appropriated at its discretion.

12. That no alteration in the Constitution of the Fund be made, except at the Annual Meeting of the Wesleyan Reform Union; nor then, unless sustained by at least two-thirds of the members, nor unless notice of such proposed alteration shall have been forwarded to the Secretary at least three months before the Annual Meeting, and by him to be sent to the Circuits for consideration.

CHAPEL FUND.

CONDITIONS TO BE OBSERVED IN MAKING LOANS.

That whilst exercising a due regard to the state of the Fund, the specific points that shall principally determine the amount of pecuniary assistance in each case be the following:—The number of sittings; the substantiality and appropriateness of the building ; its cost; the liberality of its promoters ; the tenure of the land ; the need for aid ; and the probability of its permanent use by the Wesleyan Reformers.

That no portion of the loan be paid till the property has been satisfactorily invested in trust, the deed duly enrolled, and the property adequately insured.*

* The Committee have caused a Deed of Trust to be prepared, which is recommended for adoption by our Churches, and may be had at 8, Exeter Hall. It is necessary now to enrol Chapel Deeds only in some few exceptional cases, see 31 & 32 Vict., c. 44.

CHAPEL FUND.

Form of Application for Loan in aid of a Chapel, at in the County of

1. What was the number of the population of the village or town and immediate neighbourhood at the last census?
2. What is the probable number now?
3. What is the occupation of the *chief portion* of the inhabitants,—that is, whether it is chiefly an agricultural, a mining, a manufacturing, or a trading population?
4. Are there any other Wesleyan Reform Chapels in the village or town, or in the immediate neighbourhood? and how many?
5. What is the accommodation of each?
6. And how far are they situated from the one for which the Loan is solicited?
7. How many other places of worship are there in the village or town?
8. What accommodation is furnished by them?
9. What is the tenure of the land, freehold, copyhold, or leasehold, on which the chapel stands?
10. If freehold, what was its cost?
11. If leasehold, for what number of years, and at what rental?
12. If copyhold, on what conditions is it held?
13. Has the property been vested in Trustees?
14. What are the provisions of the Deed?
15. Is it enrolled?
16. If not vested in Trustees, who holds the property?
17. When is it intended to have it invested in trust?
18. Are the provisions of the Trust Deed in accordance with the principles of the Wesleyan Reform Union?
19. What number can you accommodate?
20. Are there galleries?
21. Is there a school-room?
22. How many will the School accommodate?
23. What was the cost of the Chapel?
24. What contributions have been received?
25. How much more is promised?
26. For what period is the loan required?
27. What security will be given?
28. If personal security, give the names and addresses of the parties willing to join in it.
29. Will the amount be repaid in one sum, or by instalments?
30. If the loan is required to pay off an existing debt, state the amount to be paid off, and under what circumstances.
31. How many members are there?
32. What is the present debt?
33. What is the rate of interest paid?
34. How many sittings are let?
35. Is it insured, and for what amount?
36. The Committee votes aid, on the understanding that the accompanying conditions will be honourably observed. Do the Trustees and Church, on whose behalf they apply, agree to them?

*Dated*_____ 18

*Signed*_____

*Address*_____

Trustees of the Chapel Fund.

Edwin Benson	Birmingham.
Thos. Chamberlain	Windsor.
J. Parker	Finedon.
J. Neal	Sheffield.
Thomas Henry Richard	London.

The Wesleyan Reform Union Ministers' Provident Society.

Officers.

TRUSTEES.	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.
John Neal, Sheffield.	Elam Barley, Wibsey.
Richard Porter, Doncaster.	Richard Nicholls, Bradford.
Edwin Benson, Ivinghoe.	Moses Nash, Twyford.
John Parker, Finedon.	Thomas Bromage, Wellingboro'.
Walter Wilkinson, Sheffield.	Joseph Nodder, Sheffield.
	Henry Packett, Bradford.

TREASURER.	SECRETARY.
Edward Dickinson, Grantham.	Alexander Holland, Grantham.

AUDITORS.

John Lord, London.	William Marsden, London.

RULES.

OBJECT AND CONSTITUTION.

1. Name.—The society shall be called "The Wesleyan Reform Union Ministers' Provident Society."

2. Object.— The object of this society shall be to raise a fund, by subscriptions, contributions, donations, collections, and bequests, for the relief and maintenance of the members or their widows in advanced age, or in other special states of contingency, as may be hereinafter specified.

3. Composed.—It shall be composed of ministers as benefit members, and of laymen as honorary members.

OFFICERS, &c.

1. Trustees.—There shall be five Trustees, a Treasurer, a Secretary, and an Executive Committee of seven, all of which officers shall be elected by ballot, annually. Three Trustees shall form a quorum, and four Committee men shall form a quorum.

2. Treasurer.—The Treasurer, who shall be a layman (or at least two years out of every three), shall be elected annually, and shall not hold the office for more than three years consecutively. He shall give a bond with two sureties, the amount of which shall be fixed by the annual meeting. (See Form of Bond at the end of these Rules.)

3. The Treasurer shall keep in his possession all books (except the Secretary's books), all receipts, papers, and moneys, except such as shall be invested by the Trustees, and also all Rules, &c., all of which must be given up at the annual meeting. He shall pay no money without obtaining a receipt for the same. All receipts and vouchers, as also the accounts on the Treasurer's books, to be signed by the Auditors.

4. Fraud.—In case of any fraud or misappropriation by the Treasurer, he shall forfeit the full amount of money, pay all costs incurred by his conduct, and be deprived of membership.

5. Payments.—The Treasurer, on receiving the proper communication from the Secretary, shall pay the annuities that are due ; such payments to be made quarterly.

6. Secretary.—There shall be a Secretary appointed at the annual meeting, at a salary of 10s. per year, who shall be a minister. His duty shall be to write the resolutions and decisions of every meeting in a minute book, enter the accounts of the funds, together with receipts of moneys by the Treasurer, and prepare a general statement of the funds and effects of the society ; such statement to be attested by two Auditors, not Trustees or members of the Executive Committee. The books, &c., to be allowed to be inspected by any member of the society at reasonable times, and by appointment of Committee or the annual meeting. He shall call a special meeting of the Committee, on the written application of three members. On retiring from office, he shall prepare the yearly report for the year ending with his term of office, to be submitted first to the Executive Committee. He shall be considered as remaining in office until the appointment of his successor.

7. Auditors.—Two Auditors shall be appointed annually, to audit all the accounts, vouchers, &c.; such Auditors not to be Trustees or members of the Executive Committee.

MEMBERS, &c.

1. Entrance.—Every candidate for membership must make application to the Secretary, in writing (or he may be introduced by a member to the Committee or annual meeting), stating his age, the age of his wife, and his residence, and shall also furnish a medical certificate of his health, and he shall pay an entrance fee according to scale (see page 11), and the first quarter's subscription in advance. All subscriptions to be paid quarterly. Such applicant must be at the time, and have been at least one year, employed as a Wesleyan Reform Minister or Missionary.

2. Probation.—Each candidate for membership shall remain on probation for five years, after which he shall be entitled to receive benefits. He shall pay a quarterly subscription of 10s., which shall be paid during the first week in July, October, January, and April. Each yearly payment to reckon from the annual meeting.

3. Arrears.—If a benefit member's subscription shall remain unpaid, he shall pay a fine of two shillings and sixpence per month, to be reckoned from the annual meeting ; if twelve months pass in arrear, all claims for benefits shall be forfeited for one year, even if arrears be paid up ; and if not paid, or in part, before the end of two years, he forfeits membership.

4. Scale.—Annuitants receiving benefits shall pay £1 per year, in four quarterly instalments of 5s ; and widows of benefit members shall pay four quarterly instalments of 2s. 6d. each, and otherwise conform to the Rules of this society.

5. Dying.—A member dying during the term of his probation, the money paid by him to this society shall be returned to his heirs or executors, excepting 2½ per cent. per annum, for one year, which shall be deducted for working expenses.

6. Withdrawal.—Any member withdrawing before his probation terminates, shall forfeit fifty per cent. on the money he shall have paid into the funds of this society.

7. Any full member withdrawing shall give twelve months' notice, during which time he shall continue to pay his subscriptions, and if there be no immorality, he shall be entitled to two-thirds of whatever money he may have contributed to the society.

8. Expelled.—A member may be expelled for immorality, in which case he shall forfeit all claims upon this society. The annual meeting to decide the expulsion.

(*a.*) Employment.—No beneficiary member shall follow any calling of a doubtful character as to its morality, such as the sale of intoxicating liquors, or anything that shall infringe upon the sacredness of the Sabbath.

9. Superannuation.—Applications for superannuation to be made at the Annual Meeting, in writing, stating age and the cause of unfitness to labour, and when that unfitness took place. This to be attested by two Circuit or Church Officials where the applicant resides.

10. Annuities.—The annuity for the first year after probation shall be £10, adding £2 for every additional year until the annuity amounts to £30, and that shall be its maximum.

11. Resuming Work.—If the yearly meeting, on the testimony of a medical man, is of the opinion that a brother is able to resume work, his annuity shall cease until again disabled.

(*a*) Second Superannuation.—If again superannuated, he shall receive according to the years of active service, after his probation, not reckoning the years of his former superannuation.

(*b*) Suspected.—In case a brother be suspected of ability to work, this Society shall have such brother examined by two medical men ; the said brother to have the choice of one.

(*c*) Temporary.—Temporary disablement, resulting from accidents, &c., shall be decided upon by the Annual Meeting, or a special meeting called by the Committee through the Secretary.

WIDOWS.

(*a*) Marrying.—If a member marry while superannuated, his wife shall not be entitled to benefits.

(*b*) If a widow entitled to benefits marry again, she shall forfeit all claims.

(*c*) Widows.—The widow of a free member shall be entitled to £6 per annum for the first year, adding £1 each year up to £10 per annum, which shall be the highest allowance to any widow.

(*d*) Death.—At the death of a free member, or his widow, a grant of £10, or as near that as the funds will allow, shall be made.

HONORARY MEMBERS.

1. Honorary Members.—Any person subscribing 10s. a year shall be regarded as an honorary member for twelve months succeeding the subscription.

(*a*) Report.—Contributors of 2s. 6d. and upwards to have their names inserted in the list of subscribers to be read before the Annual Meeting.

2. Funds.—All members, beneficiary or honorary, shall endeavour to procure collections and subscriptions in aid of the funds of the Society.

INVESTMENT OF FUNDS.

1. Funds.—The Trustees shall invest all moneys by direction of the Annual Meeting.

BUSINESS MEETINGS.

1. Meetings.—The Annual Meeting shall, for convenience, be held on the Saturday evening prior to the Delegate Meeting.

(*a*) It shall appoint its own Chairman, elect Treasurer and Secretary, fill up vacancies in the Trustee list, and elect the Executive Committee. All meetings shall be opened and closed with devotional exercises.

(*b*) It shall receive all applications for membership and for annuities.

(*c*) The Treasurer and Secretary, the Committee, and the Trustees shall be entitled to attend the yearly meeting, and take part in all business done, by virtue of their office. All free members who are not in arrear with their subscriptions, and all honorary members who shall subscribe 10s. annually, shall be eligible to attend the Annual Meeting.

(*d*) After the first five years, no person in arrear, or who is not a free member, shall be entitled to attend the Annual Meeting, unless by order of the Committee or the previous Annual Meeting.

(*e*) If seven persons, including Committee-men, Trustees, Treasurer, and Secretary, be in attendance at the Annual Meeting, they shall be sufficient to act.

2. Balance Sheet.—A balance-sheet, an annual Report, with the amended items of Rules, and all the Resolutions of the previous Annual Meeting, and of all intermediate Committee meetings, shall be read at the Annual Meeting, and shall be printed, &c., at the discretion and order of the Annual Meeting; the same, if printed, to be presented as a receipt to honorary members, and sold to benefit members at cost price.

3. Arbitration.—Any matter of dispute that cannot be settled at an Annual Meeting, to be decided by arbitration. The Arbitrators to consist of two members of the Committee and one Trustee, if the matter does not directly affect them or their office; in such case, the Arbitrators to be selected by the Annual Meeting. The decision of the Arbitrators to be final.

FORM OF TREASURER'S BOND.

Know all men by these presents that we of Treasurer of Wesleyan Reform Union Ministers' Provident Society, and we of and of as sureties on behalf of the said are jointly and severally held and firmly bound to of and of Trustees of the aforenamed society, in the sum of £ to be paid to the said and as such Trustees, or their successors as Trustees for the time being, or to the person they may by writing appoint, for which payment well and truly made, we jointly and severally bind ourselves and each of us by himself, our, and each of our heirs, executors, and administrators, firmly by these presents. Sealed with our own seals. Dated this day of in the year of our Lord, 18 .

Now, therefore, the conditions of the above written bond is such that if the said shall justly and faithfully execute this office of Treasurer of the said society, shall tender a true and just account of all moneys received and paid by him, and shall hand over, pay, assign, and transfer all moneys remaining in his hand, all securities, books, receipts, vouchers, papers, and all other effects, and in all respects faithfully perform his duties as Treasurer to the said society, then the aforenamed written bond shall be void and of no effect, otherwise it shall remain in full force and virtue. As witness our hands, this day of 18

Signatures

FORM OF BEQUEATHMENT.

I give and bequeath unto the Treasurer for the time being of a certain Society established in the Wesleyan Reform Union in the year 18 , and settled upon certain trusts in the year 18 , for the support of aged and disabled ministers and the widows of ministers belonging to the said Body of Protestant Dissenters, and entitled "The Wesleyan Reform Union Ministers' Provident Society," the sum of £ , to be paid by my executors within months of my decease, out of such part only of my personal estate as shall not consist of chattels real, or money secured on mortgage of lands or tenements, and free from the payment of legacy duty, which I direct to be paid out of my general personal estate, or in any other manner affecting lands or tenements, upon Trust to be applied in aid of the funds of the said society, conformably to the rules and regulations thereof. For which legacy the receipt of the Treasurer for the time being shall be deemed sufficient as a recognition.

Witness my hand, this day of 18

Signature,_____

Witnesses,_____

_____

SCALE OF ENTRANCE MONEY.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
At 25 years ...	3	0	0	At 31 years ...	6	0	0	At 37 years ...	9	0	0
26 „ ...	3	10	0	32 „ ...	6	10	0	38 „ ...	9	10	0
27 „ ...	4	0	0	33 „ ...	7	0	0	39 „ ...	10	0	0
28 „ ...	4	10	0	34 „ ...	7	10	0	40 „ ...	10	10	0
29 „ ...	5	0	0	35 „ ...	8	0	0	41 „ ...	11	0	0
30 „ ...	5	10	0	36 „ ...	8	10	0	42 „ ...	11	10	0

LIST OF BENEFIT MEMBERS AT THE FORMATION OF THE SOCIETY.

J. H. Oliver.
E. Barley.
T. Whitehouse.
E. Sibcy.
R. Nicholls.
T. Bromage.
J. Lord.
A. Holland.
J. Pettinger.
W. Bailey.
W. Clarke.
G. Harrison.
G. Green.
J. Ball.
W. H. Williams.
J. Tetley.
W. Garner.

TREASURER'S BONDSMEN.

William Percival, Grantham. | Nathaniel Hempsted, Grantham.

HONORARY MEMBERS AT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THIS SOCIETY.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
T. H. Richard	1	1	0	W. Percival	1	0	0
S. H. Burrows	1	1	0	N. Hempsted	1	0	0
R. Porter	1	0	0	R. Hempsted	0	10	6
J. Neal	1	0	0	H. Packett	0	10	6
E. Benson	1	0	0	W. Wilkinson	0	10	0
J. Parker	1	0	0	J. Nodder	0	10	0
M. Nash	1	0	0	W. Marsden	0	10	0
S. Hereman	1	0	0	W. North	0	10	0
W. Gelsthorpe	1	0	0	G. H. Chapman	0	10	0
E. Dickinson	1	0	0				

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1. Purple sheep, sprinkled edges ...	1 0	1 6	2 0	2 6	—	3 0	4 6	6 6
2. Roan embossed, gilt edges	1 4	1 9	2 6	3 0	6 6	4 0	5 6	—
3. Roan embossed, extra gilt edges	1 8	2 0	3 0	3 6	—	—	—	—
4. Calf grained, gilt edges.....	2 0	2 6	3 6	4 0	8 0	5 0	6 6	8 6
5. Morocco plain, gilt edges.....	2 6	3 0	4 0	4 6	—	—	—	—
6. Morocco extra, flexible back	—	—	—	5 0	9 0	6 0	8 0	10 6
7. Morocco elegant, gilt.....	—	3 6	4 6	—	—	—	—	—
8. Morocco extra, elegant, flexible	—	4 0	5 0	5 6	10 6	7 6	10 0	12 6
9. Cloth	0 9	1 0	1 6	1 6	—	2 0	—	—
10. Cloth gilt	—	—	—	2 0	—	—	—	—

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